

## § 1410.10

of hardwood trees, where permitted by CCC), windbreaks, shelterbelts, or wildlife corridors.

(a) For any contract modified under this section, the participant may elect to extend such contract in accordance with the provisions of §1410.7(b).

(b) For any contract modified under this section in which such areas are converted to windbreaks, shelterbelts, or wildlife corridors, the owner must agree to maintain such plantings for a time period established by the Deputy Administrator at the time of the contract modification.

(c) CCC shall, as it determines appropriate, pay up to 50 percent of the eligible cost of establishing new conservation measures authorized under this section, except that the total cost-share paid under such contract, including cost-share assistance paid when the original cover was established, may not exceed the amount by which CCC would have paid had such land been originally devoted to such new conservation measures.

(d) For any contract modified under this section, the participant must participate in the Forest Stewardship Program (16 U.S.C. 2103a).

## § 1410.10 Restoration of wetlands.

(a) An owner or operator who entered into a CRP contract on land that is suitable for restoration to wetlands or that was restored to wetlands while under such contract, may, if approved by CCC, subject to any restrictions as may be imposed by law, apply to transfer such eligible acres subject to such contract that are devoted to an approved cover from the CRP to the WRP. Transferred acreage shall be terminated from the CRP effective the day a WRP easement is filed. Participants will receive a prorated CRP annual payment for that part of the year the acreage was enrolled in the CRP according to §1410.42. Refunds of cost-share payments or applicable incentive payments need not be refunded unless specified by the Deputy Administrator.

(b) An owner or operator who has enrolled acreage in the CRP may, as determined and approved by CCC, restore suitable acres to wetlands with cost-share assistance provided that Federal cost-share assistance has not been re-

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ceived for wetland restoration on the same land. In addition to the cost-share limitation in §1410.41, an additional one-time financial incentive may be provided to encourage restoration of the hydrology of the site.

## § 1410.11 Farmable Wetlands Program.

(a) In addition to other allowable enrollments, land may be enrolled in this program through the Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP) within the overall Conservation Reserve Program provided for in this part.

(b) As determined by CCC, eligible owners and operators may enroll land in FWP provided that the land:

(1) Is a wetland, including a converted wetland, as determined by CCC, that has been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity, as defined in §1410.2, in 3 of the 10 most recent crop years and that does not exceed the size limitations of this section;

(2) Is enrolled to be a constructed wetland that is to be developed to receive flow from a row crop agriculture drainage system and is designed to provide nitrogen removal in addition to other wetland functions and that does not exceed the size limitations of this section;

(3) Was a commercial pond-raised aquaculture facility in any year during the period of calendar years 2002 through 2007; or

(4) Was cropped, after January 1, 1990, and before December 31, 2002, at least 3 of 10 crop years, was subject to the natural overflow of a prairie wetland, and does not exceed the size limitations of this section.

(c) In addition, land may be enrolled in FWP if the land is buffer acreage that provides protection for and is contiguous to land otherwise eligible under paragraphs (b)(1), (b)(2), or (b)(4) of this section, subject to other provisions of this section.

(d) Total enrollment in CRP under this section may not exceed 1 million acres. In addition, the maximum size of a land enrolled under this section may not exceed, as determined by CCC:

(1) 40 contiguous acres for land made eligible by paragraph (b)(1) of this section;

(2) 40 contiguous acres for land made eligible by paragraph (b)(2) of this section;

(3) 20 contiguous acres for land made eligible by paragraph (b)(4) of this section; or

(4) A suitable buffer as determined by the Deputy Administrator for lands added under paragraph (c) of this section.

(e) All participants subject to a CRP contract under this section must agree to establish and maintain, as appropriate, the practice described in paragraph (b) of this section to the maximum extent possible, as determined by CCC, in accordance with NRCS FOTG including, as appropriate, restoring the hydrology of the wetland and establishing vegetative cover (which may include emerging vegetation in water and bottomland hardwoods, cypress, and other appropriate tree species in shallow water areas), as determined by CCC.

(f) Offers for contracts under this section must be submitted under continuous signup provisions as authorized in § 1410.30.

(g) Except as otherwise determined by CCC, all other requirements of this part apply to enrollments under this section, and CCC may add such other requirements or conditions as it deems necessary. Such additional conditions include, but are not limited to, payment limitations, adjusted gross income limitations, and limitations on the amount of acreage that can be enrolled in any one county.

[74 FR 30912, June 29, 2009]

#### **§ 1410.12 Emergency Forestry Program.**

(a) In addition to other allowable enrollments, certain non-industrial private forest land located in Presidential- or Secretarial-declared primary disaster counties that suffered damage from hurricanes in calendar year 2005 may be enrolled through the Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program (EFCRP) provided for in this section.

(b) Owners and/or operators may enroll non-industrial private forest land, as defined in § 1410.2, in the CRP provided that the private non-industrial forest land:

(1) Has merchantable timber (timber on land on which the average tree has a trunk diameter of at least six inches measured at a point no less than four and one-half feet above the ground); and

(2) Has experienced a loss of 35 percent or more of merchantable timber in a 2005 calendar year hurricane-affected county due to 2005 hurricanes.

(c) The provisions of § 1410.4 do not apply to this section.

(d) Any overall acreage enrollment limit imposed on CRP shall not apply to acreage enrolled under this section.

(e) All participants subject to a CRP contract entered into pursuant to this section must agree:

(1) To restore the land, through site preparation and planting of, to the maximum extent practicable, native species or similar species as existing prior to hurricane damages as may be specified in the contract, and comply with other requirements as may be specified in the contract;

(2) To establish temporary vegetative cover; and

(3) That the contract term shall be for a period of 10 years, during which time standing timber may not be harvested from the enrolled land except as may be approved by CCC in the conservation plan as part of the normal maintenance of the forest land.

(f) Offers for contracts under this section shall be submitted under continuous signup provisions as authorized in § 1410.30.

(g) In evaluating contract offers to which this section applies, different factors, as determined by CCC, may be considered for priority purposes. These include but are not limited to soil erosion prevention, water quality improvement, wildlife habitat restoration, and mitigation of economic loss.

(h) In return for a contract entered into under this paragraph, a participant may opt for:

(1) Annual rental payments authorized by § 1410.42, except that the payment rate shall be equal to:

(i) The average rental rate for CRP contracts in the county in which the land is actually located; or

(ii) In the case where no CRP contracts are enrolled in a county, the average rental rate will be the CRP rate